

# Eucladoceros

***Eucladoceros*** (Greek for "well-branched antler") or **bush-antlered deer** is an extinct genus of deer whose fossils have been discovered in Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia. This genus was formally described by Hugh Falconer in 1868.<sup>[1]</sup>

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## Description



*Eucladoceros tegulensis*

*Eucladoceros* was a large deer, reaching 2.5 metres (8.2 ft) in body length and standing about 1.8 metres (5.9 ft) tall at the shoulder, only slightly smaller than a modern moose. It had a spectacular set of antlers which split into twelve times per pedicle, and were

up to 1.7 metres (5.6 ft) wide.<sup>[2]</sup>

The most distinctive feature of *Eucladoceros* was its comb-like antlers, especially in *E. ctenoides*. *E. dicranios* is the most evolved species of the genus, with a dichotomous branching of each antler tine. *Eucladoceros* was the first deer genus to have highly evolved antlers; however its cranial shape and dental morphology remained primitive, as in *Rusa unicolor*.

## Distribution

The first find (*E. dicranios*) was in 1841 by Florentine naturalist Filippo Nesti, director of the "Museo di Storia Naturale di Firenze" ("Museum of Natural History of Florence"). The earliest species of *Eucladoceros* was described from the Early Pliocene of China. The most abundant fossil remains of *Eucladoceros* have come from the Early Pleistocene of Europe and China.

### *Eucladoceros*

Temporal range:

Early Pliocene to Early Pleistocene

PreЄ Є O S D C P T J K PgN



*Eucladoceros dicranios*

### Scientific classification

Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Class:	Mammalia
Order:	Artiodactyla
Family:	Cervidae
Subfamily:	Cervinae
Genus:	<div>†<i>Eucladoceros</i></div> <div>Falconer, 1868</div>

### Species

- †***E. boulei*** (1928)
- †***E. dichotomus***
- †***E. dicranios*** (1841)
- †***E. senezensis*** (1910)
- †***E. teguliensis*** (1841)
- †***E. tetraceros*** (1878)



*Eucladoceros senezensis* fossil

The systematics of European forms is confused and up to twelve poorly defined species are reported. The majority of those species names are synonymous, and at present only two or three good species are recognized: *E. dicranios* from England, Italy and Azov Sea Area in South Russia; *E. ctenoides* from Greece, Italy, France, Spain, the Netherlands, and England; and *E. teguliensis* (a senior synonym of *E. senezensis*) from France, the Netherlands, and Britain. The latter species is regarded by some authors as a subspecies of *E. ctenoides*,

since there are some finds (for instance, from Ceyssaguet, France) that show a transitional character between *E. ctenoides* and *E. teguliensis*.

Some poor remains of *Eucladoceros* are found also in Tajikistan, Pakistan, and India.

## Species

- *Eucladoceros boulei* Marcellin Boule (1928), Age: Latest Pliocene - Early Pleistocene; Nihowan, China
- *Eucladoceros ctenoides* (former name *E. teguliensis*) F. Nesti (1841), Age: Early Pleistocene, Late Villafranchian; Locus typicus: Upper Valdarno, Tuscany, Italy
- *Eucladoceros dichotomus* (Original citation: *Cervus (Elaphurus) dichotomus* Teilhard de Chardin & Piveteau; Early Pleistocene of Nohowan; most probably is not a *Eucladoceros* species)
- *Eucladoceros dicranios* Filippo Nesti (1841), Age: Early Pleistocene, Late Villafranchian; Upper Valdarno, Tuscany, Italy. Note: the type species of the genus.
- *Eucladoceros proboulei* (Dong Wey), Age: Early Pliocene; China
- *Eucladoceros senezensis* Charles Depéret, 1910, Senèze (Haute-Loire), near Brioude, France. Note: some authors regard it as a subspecies of *E. ctenoides*.
- *Eucladoceros tetraceros* Sir Wm. Boyd Dawkins (1878), Age: Early Pleistocene; Peyrolles, Haute-Loire, France. Note: a possible synonym of *E. ctenoides*.



*Eucladoceros ctenoides* heel bone

## References

1. Falconer, H. (1868). Notes on fossil species of *Cervus*, including a description of a remarkable fossil antler of a large species of extinct *Cervus*, *C. (Eucladoceros) Sedgwickii* (<https://archive.org/stream/palaeontological02falc#page/n635/mode/2up>), in the collection of the Rev John Gunn, Irstead. In: C. Murchison (Ed.): *Palaeontological Memoirs and Notes of Hugh Falconer, Vol. II. Mastodont, elephant, rhinoceros, ossiferous caves, primeval man and his contemporaries*: 471-480.
2. Palmer, D., ed. (1999). *The Marshall Illustrated Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs and Prehistoric Animals*. London: Marshall Editions. p. 279. ISBN 1-84028-152-9.

## Literature

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## External links

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- A Pleistocene Bestiary ([http://www.anth.ucsb.edu/faculty/stsmith/classes/anth3/courseware/Pleistocene/6\\_Bestiary.html#Eucladoceros](http://www.anth.ucsb.edu/faculty/stsmith/classes/anth3/courseware/Pleistocene/6_Bestiary.html#Eucladoceros))
  - Painting of Eucladoceros (<https://web.archive.org/web/20070329104008/http://home.hetnet.nl/~alad/page20.html>)
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